

T4SD Hubs

One-stop-shops for sustainable SMEs

What are the T4SD Hubs?

The International Trade Centre (ITC), the joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, promotes the transitioning of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to the green economy through its Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) Hubs.

The T4SD Hubs provide integrated solutions and tools for SMEs in the implementation of green business practices. Hosted by Trade and Investment Support Institutions (TISIs), the T4SD Hubs, hosted by a local business support organisation (BSO) otherwise known as T4SD Hub Host, act as one-stop shops for SMEs to build green business

strategies to access green finance and international markets for sustainable products.

The T4SD Hubs are implemented in Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Nepal, Peru and Viet Nam with a regional T4SD Hub upcoming in the Caribbean. The expected results will be that as of the end of 2022, approximately 1,500 SMEs will better understand the benefits of sustainable business practices and up to 360 SMEs will obtain the capacity to implement climate resilience, resource efficient and inclusive business strategies.

How do the T4SD Hub support SMEs?

The T4SD Hubs offer the needed tools and solutions for SMEs to build the capacity and knowledge to implement green business practices through its coaching programme focusing on the key aspects such as sustainability standards, climate resilience, resource efficiency, circular production and access to green finance and markets.

The coaching programme is implemented as a blended learning approach of e-learning and customized face-to-face coaching sessions with local coaches trained by ITC. Each T4SD Hub Host (BSO) will work alongside ITC in the roll out of the 2-year coaching programme under the following

thematic areas: 1) Climate Resilience; 2) Resource Efficient & Circular Production (RECP); 3) Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS); 4) Positioning Sustainable Products in the International Market; and 5) Accessing Green Finance and Markets for Sustainable Products.

Together with local T4SD Hub Hosts, the modules and duration of the coaching programme are selected according to the identified needs and national or sectorial priority areas. For each of the coaching programmes the following steps are implemented to build SMEs' capacity to develop sustainable business strategies and facilitate their implementation:



Benefits for SMEs



Increased international competitiveness through reduced production costs and increased productivity;



New business opportunities through the development of new products and services;



Ensuring business continuity and stable transactions in international value chains;



Access to (green) finance opportunities;



Improved environmental and social sustainability;



Access to international markets for sustainable products.

The global T4SD Hubs Network

The Hubs are connected through a digital network leveraging Sustainability Map and communicate with each other to exchange best practices and lessons learned. Dynamic communication between the Hubs is essential for avoiding duplication of efforts and transferring expertise and knowledge.

The platform will also enable information sharing of public materials and relevant information produced and promoted by the Hubs such as training materials, case studies and events. All information generated in the Community will be freely accessible to SMEs globally.



Expected Achievements of T4SD Hubs Globally

1. Established in **6 countries** (Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Nepal, Peru and Viet Nam) and **1 regional hub** in the Caribbean
2. **1,500 companies** will improve their knowledge and understanding on the benefits of sustainable business practices;
3. **360 companies** will enhance their capacity to implement sustainable business practices;
4. **450 experts** trained on ITC's methodologies on Climate Resilience, Resource Efficiency & Circular Production and Voluntary Sustainability Standards.

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